

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Prevention of Tuberculosis in Childhood

It is now well known that tuberculosis is usually acquired in childhood either from individuals in the home affected with tuberculosis or from infected milk. We have largely eliminated infected milk by tuberculin testing of cattle and by the efficient pasteurization of milk. As pasteurization of milk becomes more and more prevalent, crippling from tuberculosis of the bones and joints will become less and less common. Every child should be examined periodically by a competent physician in order to detect the earliest signs of tuberculosis. In this way only can the most effective measures for its control be applied. One of the most serious aspects of tuberculosis today is its appearance in young women of high school and college age. The tuberculosis death rate has been reduced considerably at all age periods except among young women. The dieting fad to secure a slender figure and over-activity at school and in social events undoubtedly contribute to this condition.

The prevention of tuberculosis in childhood is relatively simple if a few principles are carried out as follows:

1. Keep the child away from contact with tuberculous individuals, especially in the early years of life.
2. Protect the general milk supply by efficient pasteurization and heat all milk given to young children.
3. Maintain a good nutritional status in the child by proper feeding.

4. Prevent as far as possible over-activity and fatigue in young people.

5. Have the child examined periodically by a competent doctor.—Richard A. Bolt, M.D., Director Cleveland Child Health Association.

FEDERAL REGULATION COVERING PSITTACINE BIRDS

The United States interstate quarantine regulation pertaining to interstate shipments of psittacine birds, issued by the United States Public Health Service almost a year ago, is still in effect. Following is the text of the regulation:

“No person, firm or corporation shall offer for shipment in interstate traffic, and no common carrier shall accept for shipment or transport in interstate traffic, any parrot, parrakeet, love bird, macaw, cockatoo, lory, lorikeet, or any other bird of the parrot or psittacine family, unless an accompanying certificate has been obtained from the State health authority to the effect that to the best of the knowledge and belief of such authority such bird as may be offered for shipment has originated from an aviary, or other distributing establishment, free from psittacosis infection.”

When controversy bursts forth, the first one to become silent is assuredly of good family.—Talmud.

SEWER FARM REGULATIONS

The regulations pertaining to the use of sewage effluent for irrigation adopted by the State Board of Public Health May 27, 1933, have been published in the Weekly Bulletin. For decades this State has had the reputation of holding to high hygienic ideals in the use of sewage for watering or fertilizing crops. The new regulations are more stringent than those which had been in force heretofore. They are designed to meet the demand for the use of highgrade, fully disinfected effluents. They were in course of preparation for many months and are the result of many conferences with health officers, officials and prospective users of sewage.

The regulations may be summarized as follows:

- (1) Prohibit the use of raw sewage or raw sludge on growing crops of any description.
- (2) Permit use of sludge for fertilizing vegetables, low-growing fruits and berries, only if the sludge has been rendered innocuous and free of the danger of spreading disease by such measures as kiln drying, bed drying or aging in storage (in either case not less than thirty days) or treating or conditioning the sludge to the satisfaction of the State Department of Public Health, or digesting it to the point where the sludge is odorless, drains readily, and not over 50 per cent of the total solid matter is in volatile form.
- (3) Prohibit the use of settled or undisinfected, though oxidized, effluents on any vegetable crop, but permit such use in irrigating orchards and vineyards and on field crops such as grain, cotton, rice and the fodder crops.
- (4) Impose no restrictions on the use of thoroughly oxidized and dependably disinfected or filtered effluents, which meet the following bacterial standard: in any 20 consecutive samples, from which five 10 c.c. portions each are examined, not over ten portions shall be positive for members of the *Coli-aerogenes* group, and in no single sample shall over half the .1 c.c. portions of the sample of the effluent be positive for the above organisms. Precautions to be taken in construction and operation of the disinfecting plant are set up to equal those in the best run water disinfecting plants.

Cross connections between lines carrying sewage or effluent, and water lines, are forbidden.

Disease has been longer than any other of Nature's forces misunderstood, fought against blindly, combatted without real study. Scarcely 70 years ago did the first real glimmerings of what disease really is strike into the human mind in any practical way. Scarcely 30 years ago did the first real uses of that new knowledge begin to show themselves in remodeling human life.—H. W. Hill, M.D.

CONTROL OF PSITTACOSIS RECEIVES ENDORSEMENT

The Western Branch of the American Public Health Association, at its annual meeting held recently in Pasadena, adopted the following resolution pertaining to the control of psittacosis:

Whereas, The recent appearance of psittacosis in California and other western States has established this disease as a distinct menace to the public health, and

Whereas, Scientific investigations have proved that birds of the psittacine family, particularly parakeets in California, are infected with this disease, and

Whereas, Intensive research into psittacosis among psittacine birds in California together with the enforcement of adequate regulations governing the importation of such birds into the United States should necessitate stringent measures in the control of this disease, and

Whereas, The United States Public Health Service is rendering invaluable assistance to California and to all other States through the maintenance of its local laboratory for the study of psittacosis and through the enforcement of regulations governing the importation of psittacine birds; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association request the United States Public Health Service to continue the maintenance of its laboratory for the study of psittacosis in California, and be it further

Resolved, That the United States Public Health Service be requested to take all necessary precautions to prevent the introduction of psittacine birds into the United States, and be it further

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Association and that a copy be sent to the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service.

The great characteristic of any living thing, the final distinction between a living thing and a dead thing, is the ability which the living thing has to adjust itself to its surroundings. For instance, a dead thing, a stone or a corpse, in the Arctic becomes chilled clear through; in the tropics becomes heated clear through; it is at the mercy of its surroundings. But a living man shows an unchanged internal temperature, whether he be exposed to Arctic or tropic, summer or winter, so long as he is alive and well—i.e., so long as he can adjust himself to his surroundings. That is what "alive and well" means. Health is "successful adjustment, without pain or damage."—H. W. Hill, M.D.

LOW DEATH RATE FOR TYPHOID

The 1932 typhoid mortality rates for twenty-eight States are available. There are only six of these States that have lower typhoid death rates than California. They are Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey, Wisconsin, New York and Michigan. In consideration of the fact that most California public water supplies come from surface streams, it is remarkable that California communities are able to maintain a State typhoid death rate that compares favorably with similar rates for other States. Through safeguarding water supplies properly, the people of California are insured against many cases of devastating illness and possible death. It is not many years ago that the average community expected to have a certain number of typhoid cases present each year. Today, typhoid never occurs in some communities of the State and it is a fact that many physicians never have the opportunity to see a case of this disease.

Following are the death rates from typhoid fever in 1932 for twenty-eight States:

Connecticut -----	.6	Indiana -----	2.5
Minnesota -----	.7	Montana -----	2.8
New Jersey -----	.7	Maryland -----	3.0
Wisconsin -----	.7	Idaho -----	3.3
New York -----	1.0	Alabama -----	4.9
Michigan -----	1.1	North Carolina -----	5.0
California -----	1.3	Virginia -----	5.1
District of Columbia -----	1.4	Mississippi -----	6.3
Nebraska -----	1.4	Louisiana -----	10.8
South Dakota -----	1.4	Tennessee -----	11.0
Illinois -----	1.7	West Virginia -----	12.1
Iowa -----	1.7	Georgia -----	12.6
Kansas -----	1.7	South Carolina -----	14.7
Pennsylvania -----	1.8		
Ohio -----	2.0	Average for 28 States -----	3.2

FEDERAL AID IN MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

It would appear that there is a possibility for communities in California to carry on, under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, certain mosquito control activities in connection with the control not only of malaria-carrying mosquitoes but also salt-marsh mosquitoes and other pestiferous mosquitoes. Funds obtained for this purpose can be expended only for labor. Since the principal cost in mosquito control work is that connected with labor, the distribution of funds from this source would care for the chief item of expense in mosquito control work.

Surgeon General H. S. Cumming, of the United States Public Health Service, has requested the Director of the California State Department of Public Health to submit an itemized list of possible mosquito control projects in California, together with the estimated cost, for transmission to the Director of Work Relief Projects.

Following is the text of a communication from Mr. Hugh R. O'Donnell, Director of Work Relief Projects of the Federal Relief Administration, to the Surgeon General:

"As you probably know, this Administration is trying to put as many men to work as possible and is paying them out of funds provided partly by the Government and partly by the States.

We should like to hear from you on this subject and if you can submit any work projects for which no appropriations have been made available we should like to go further into the matter with you."

FERRIC CHLORIDE FOR POISON OAK

The uses of many different products, as well as immunization, have been recommended in the prevention and treatment of poisoning by poison oak. Perhaps the most effective way to prevent this type of poisoning is through immunization, but certain chemicals are also effective. Reference was made in a recent issue of this publication to the value that lies in the application of hyposulphite of soda, which is used extensively in the Ninth Corps Area of the U. S. Army. It is probable, however, that one of the best products in the prevention and treatment of poisoning from poison oak is tincture of ferric chloride.

Mr. James B. McNair, who has devoted many years of research to problems associated with poisoning from poison oak, discovered the value of ferric chloride as a remedy and also as a prophylactic. He states that a mixture of half grain alcohol and half water, containing 5 grams of ferric chloride per 100 cc. of the mixture (three level teaspoons to 1 cup), when allowed to dry on the human skin, will act as a prophylactic. It is said that this will prevent poisoning of the most highly susceptible individual. It is recommended that exposed parts of the body—hands, face and neck—be washed with this ferric chloride solution before exposure. Individuals who have not been so treated and who contract the poisoning may obtain considerable relief through the same procedure.

Major Thomas R. Marshall, of the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army, has found that the ferric chloride treatment is specific and should be used in all stages of irritation. Of course, the earlier the application is made the better the results obtained.

Having now freed man from much or most of his ancient labors, the next great work for science is to make of this new freeman with "time to think" a being who is happy, not because of the amazing things he owns, but because of the amazing things he can do and think.—John J. Davis, U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania.

PARRAKEETS BARRED FROM OREGON

The Oregon State Board of Health has issued an embargo against the importation of parrakeets into Oregon. The shipment of these birds into the State is prohibited until such time as it can be demonstrated that the aviaries from which parrakeets are shipped are free from infection. Following is the text of the resolution as adopted by the Oregon State Board of Health:

Whereas, Cases of psittacosis are appearing in western States due to the shipment of parrakeets from infected aviaries in California, and

Whereas, It is practically impossible to exclude carriers of this infection coming from infected areas, and

Whereas, Reservoirs of infection are known to exist in California, and

Whereas, Infected birds are continually coming from California and foreign ports; therefore be it

Resolved, That the State Board of Health of Oregon prohibit the shipment of parrakeets into this State until such time as it can be demonstrated that the aviaries from which parrakeets are shipped are free from infection.

Modern medicine, keen on the scent for prevention as well as cure, has taken this indication of nature's methods and, tirelessly following the details of her secrets, has found the principle on which nature works. We know now how to secure the immunity without first suffering the disease—we have analyzed nature's methods and have separated the boon of immunity from the bane of disease. These boons and banes of nature are generally mixed in nature's potions; just as nature mixes both boon and bane in crude coal tar. Modern chemistry has taken that awful coal tar mixture and separated from it the most brilliant dyes we use for hats and ribbons, some useful drugs, some poisons, and many other things. Just so, by careful examination, we have found how to separate out from what, to our ancestors, appeared to be only a dark dreadful mass of disease, certain bright gems of value, of which immunity is the chief one up to date.—H. W. Hill, M.D.

MORBIDITY ***Diphtheria**

25 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 7, Monrovia 1, San Fernando 1, Whittier 1, Orange County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 3, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 2, Gilroy 1.

* From reports received on August 7th and 8th for week ending August 5th.

Chickenpox

82 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 17, Pasadena 10.

Measles

106 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 22, San Diego 15.

Scarlet Fever

54 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 11.

Whooping Cough

256 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles County 15, Los Angeles 72, Merced County 10, San Diego 19, San Francisco 10.

Smallpox

16 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 12, Signal Hill 1, Santa Clara County 1, Ventura County 1.

Typhoid Fever

5 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Redondo 1, San Marino 1, Sacramento County 1, San Bernardino County 1.

Poliomyelitis

5 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, Orange County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 2.

Undulant Fever

4 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 1, Santa Ana 1, South San Francisco 1.

Tularemia

One case of tularemia from Plumas County has been reported.